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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,587	01/25/2005	Stephen Currid	232.7548USU	2546

7590

06/14/2005

Paul Greeley
Ohlandt Greeley Ruggiero & Perle
One Landmark Square
10 th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682

EXAMINER

KRISHNAMURTHY, RAMESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/089,587	Applicant(s) CURRID, STEPHEN	
	Examiner Ramesh Krishnamurthy	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/24/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This office action is responsive to communications filed 03/10/2005.

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

(a) The filing date specified in the oath is inconsistent with PTO record that identify the filing date to be 01/25/2005 for the application 10/089587; and

(b) Foreign priority cannot be claimed to PCT/GB97/03351 since the instant application is a national stage entry of the same.

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification lacks proper section headings such as Introduction, Summary of Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, etc. See MPEP 608.01(a).

Appropriate correction is required.

Art Unit: 3753

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 5 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haddrell (GB 1,600,743).

Haddrell discloses a non return device (figs. 1, 2) comprising:

Flexible impervious wall members (4) disposed face to face, axially moveable means (2) holding said wall members spaced apart at end of the device (near the inlet end);

Wherein the device comprises a tubular body portion (8) surrounding the wall members and means (10) (that includes a nut (see Fig. 1)) are provided for compressing a portion of the wall members against the tubular body portion so as to provide a seal.

6. Claims 11 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glicksman (US 5,460,200).

Glicksman discloses a non-return device (20) comprising:

Flexible impervious wall members (22,24) of complementary shapes disposed face-to-face in surface contact; and

Means holding said walls spaced apart (near (34)) at end of the device wherein the thickness of the wall members is in the range of 1% to 2% of their width. (Col. 4, lines 20 – 26).

Art Unit: 3753

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1 – 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Hara et al. (GB 2,296,309 A) over BE 669,967.

O'Hara et al. discloses (Figs. 1 – 5) a non-return device comprising:

Flexible impervious wall members (7,9) having complementary shapes; means (13, 14) holding said wall members spaced apart at an inlet end (near (12)); wherein the device comprises a tubular body portion (3) surrounding the wall members.

The patent to O'Hara et al. discloses the claimed invention with the exception of explicitly disclosing a tubular outlet portion extending from the outlet end of the tubular portion to have a diameter different therefrom with radially offset axes.

The document BE '967 discloses (Figs. 1, 2) a non-return device wherein a tubular outlet portion (9) extending from the outlet end of a tubular portion (2) to have a diameter different therefrom with radially offset axes, thereby providing a desired flow through the device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in O'Hara et al. a tubular outlet portion extending from the outlet end of the tubular portion to have a diameter different therefrom with radially offset axes, for the purpose of providing a desired flow through the device.

Art Unit: 3753

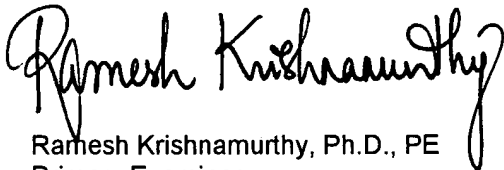
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene L. Mancene, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4930. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872 – 9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 0861.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753